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HEALTH

NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires
Rural District

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1945.

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FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1945.

ANNUAL REPORT.

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

General Statistics.

Area—47,011 acres.

Population (estimated)—4,225.

No. of Inhabited Houses—1,473.

Rateable Value—£18,307.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£83.

Social Conditions.

Farming is the primary industry in the district, whilst salmon fishing provides an occupation for a considerable number of men along Tweedside, and coal mining in the Scremerston area.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	53	27	26	} Birth rate per 1000 population—14.67
	{ Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Still Births	...	2			Rate per 1000 births—31.2
Deaths	...	64	29	35	{ Rate per 1000 population—15.1
Deaths from puerperal sepsis—0					
,, other puerperal causes—0					
Death rate of infants under one year—					
All infants, per 1000 live births—0					
Legitimate infants—per 1000 legitimate live births—0					
Illegitimate infants—per 1000 illegitimate live births—0					
Deaths from cancer (all ages)—6					
,, measles—0					
,, whooping cough—0					
,, diarrhoea—0					

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)—Herbert F. Park, M.B. CH.B.
Norham

Sanitary Inspector—J. Romans Lake, East Ord.

Vaccination Officers—H. F. Park, M.B., and J. Elliott, L.R.C.S.E.

Laboratory Facilities—County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance facilities. By arrangement with Berwick a modern ambulance is available for all purposes.

Nursing. The district is served by the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

Hospitals. There is no change in hospital facilities. Infectious cases are isolated at Berwick & District Isolation Hospital. The R.D.C.'s Smallpox Hospital at Oxford has not been used during the year but is ready at short notice. There are no General or Cottage Hospitals in the area, but the Maternity Hospital at Castlehills, Berwick, is available for patients in the District.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. This district is *not* well watered, and the question is under consideration by the Council who have plans to acquire, and improve both existing and new supplies. The whole supply throughout the district at present remains inadequate in quantity and in a few cases in quality.

Piped supplies are available in Norham, Horncliffe, East Ord, Scremerston, Cornhill, and Fenwick, and the quality is good. Many of the farms are short of water in dry seasons, and many of the farm cottages are inadequately supplied. This lack of good water supplies is the big factor in the delay in rehousing such places as Cornhill, Donaldson's Lodge, and Ancroft. (More details are given in the Sanitary Inspector's section.)

Drainage and Sewage. There have been no major changes in these systems in the area,

Scavenging. At present there is no system of scavenging in the district. The R.D.C. have, however, approved a scheme for the systematic collection of household refuse, and this will come into operation throughout the area in the latter part of 1946.

Rivers and Streams. There is no gross pollution in the area

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year :**

		Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths
Smallpox ...	...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	2	2	0
Diphtheria...	...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	0	6	0
Puerperal Fever	...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	1	1	1
Measles	...	5	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	11	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	2	2	0

Tuberculosis.

Age	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
25	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Herbert. Frank
17.0.46

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, for the Year 1945.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Visits of inspection have been made throughout the District during the year. No statutory notices have been served. Informal notices have been issued, and verbal instructions given to agents and responsible persons, and these notices and instructions have been well attended to.

Conditions of dwelling houses. The defects in the older types of houses are dampness, insufficient light, want of ventilation, and the absence of proper food stores, and, in some cases, general dilapidations.

Since the European war and the absorption of labour and the diversion of materials for national purposes, only a minimum of structural and repair work to property has been carried out during year.

Housing survey. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken under the Housing Survey, and is still proceeding. As the detailed work involved is very considerable, it will take a long time to complete.

Plans. Plans for the improvement of various properties have been submitted to and approved by the Council. These include the following—

Restoration of the Haven at Goswick Station. This was a war damaged house.

Garage at Holy Island.

Alterations at Kentstone Farm.

Improvements to Farm Buildings, including Cattle Sheds and Byre.

Garage at Horncliffe village.

Repairs to Farm Buildings at Middle Ord Farm.

Extension of Cattle Courtings and a Garage at South Ord Farm

Improvements and Additions to Duddo Farm Cottages.

Internal Improvements to Cottage at Fenwick.

Do.

do.

East Ord.

Plans for the erection of 2 Swedish timber cottages were passed to be erected at Horncliffe village.

Plans were also considered for the erection of Council Houses at Scremerston, Ord, Norham, and Horncliffe.

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Plans were approved in respect of the following—

2 Farm Cottages at East Newbigging.

2 Cottages at The Green, E. Ord.

1 House at Milfield Place, East Ord.

Water supplies. The gravitation water supplies have been on the whole fairly satisfactory during the year. Some parts of the district were not so fortunate, where they were dependent upon springs, the cause being the shortage and failure of several springs as a result of the open winter, with rainfall below the average and the lack of snow.

A comprehensive scheme of water that would flow by gravitation to all parts of the district would be of great benefit, and if such a scheme could be inaugurated it could be made possible to include the greater part of North Northumberland, and solve the difficulties of many areas where the difficulties are often critical.

One of the two women's hostels in the district is supplied from water supplies owned by the Council.

Fenwick. This village is supplied by gravitation from a spring which rises in Kyloe Woods.

East Ord. This is a gravitation supply under the ownership of the local authority.

Cornhill. The water supply to Cornhill Village and the surroundings is pumped from a spring, and gravitates from a reservoir in a 2in. water main. The water is of good quality and ample quantity. The system is privately owned.

Norham, Horncliffe, Thornton, and Shoreswood. This is a gravitation water supply, and during the year the supply has been well maintained, and is of good quality and ample quantity. It is owned by the local authority.

The spring at Bow Well, which was the original supply for Norham village, remains the same, and the greater part of Norham is now supplied from the reservoir at Shoreswood Hall

Holy Island. The principal source of supply is drawn by a pump from the Popple Well, and carried in pails and buckets by the users. This spring has never been known to fail.

Duddo Village and Farm. An assurance has been given by the owner that this water supply will be improved and made adequate for the needs of the locality.

Bacteriological Report on samples of water collected 28/8/45.

Probable number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. of water.

1	Taken from outside tap at Beal Station	...	5
2	Taken from overflow at Reservoir at Mount Hooley on Haggerston Estate	... ..	90

Rivers and Streams. There are no public works in the area, and consequently no river pollution from these sources.

Sewerage and drainage. No main sewers have been laid during the year, but several drainage schemes in connection with alterations and improvements to property have been carried out. During the year three earth closets have been converted into water closets.

Schools. The Hampshire privy system is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available.

Disinfection. All premise where infectious diseases occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the infected areas.

Dairies and Cowsheds (Milk Supply). During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. The cleanliness of these has been well observed, also flushing and whitewashing.

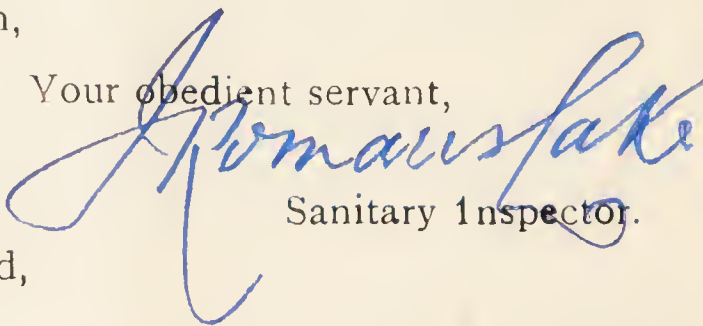
Factories and Workshops. These number 34. and have all been well kept.

Disinfection. There was no occasion to disinfestate for the eradication of bugs.

Slaughterhouses. The two slaughterhouses in the district are not now used as such. Meat supplies are sent from headquarters

I am,

Your obedient servant,



Sanitary Inspector.

East Ord,
Berwick-on-Tweed,
July, 1946.

